

REPORT

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USSR (Latvia)

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The Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star)  
Bicycle Factory at Riga

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1. The Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) Bicycle Factory (Latvian name "Sarkana Zvaigzne") existed before the war and produced bicycles for Latvia. When the Germans left Latvia, the factory buildings were not blown up, but all the equipment and installations were partially destroyed or carried away. After the occupation of Riga by the Soviet troops, a Soviet Commission proposed the reconstruction of the "Sarkana Zvaigzne" factory with an increase in its productive capacity. It is now under the Ministry for Local Industries at Riga, Latvian SSR. Reconstruction of the first (priority) part of the factory was completed in March 1947 and the factory started producing bicycles. The reconstruction of the second (non-priority) part of the factory was begun in August 1947. The output of bicycles has decreased considerably during the last few months, as a result of production workers' installing machine tools and equipment in other factory buildings. According to plan, the factory was to have produced 20,000 bicycles in 1947, a nine-month period, as the production was actually started in April 1947; during January, February, and March 1947, the factory produced about 300 trial bicycles, but prepared a large number of different parts and spares.
  2. Full capacity production is expected by the middle of 1948. The factory did not fulfill the plan and produced approximately 15,000 bicycles in 1947. The best months for production were April, May, and June 1947 and in June it was awarded the third prize in the Socialist Competition for factories under the Local Industries Ministry of the Latvian SSR. The factory works an 8-hour day: output suffers seriously from continual labor fluctuations. In April, May, and June 1947, the factory produced about 1900 bicycles per month (with a planned 1700); in November 1947 output fell to 700 bicycles (with a planned 2700), and in December to 1200 bicycles (with a planned 3000). The quality of bicycles produced is quite satisfactory.
  3. Factory director - B. N. Sodeļ  
Chief engineer - Smirnov  
Chief of production - Dynze
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4c Shops

The following factory shops existed in February 1948:

- Fitters shop
- Engineering shop (the grinding section of this shop is accommodated in another building)
- Tool shop
- Stamping shop
- Covering (Finishing ? ) shop (tsekh pokrytiya)
- Assembly shop
- Rim shop (also called fitters' & rim shop)
- Thermic shop
- Varnishing shop
- Sand-blasting shop
- Consumer goods shop

There is a store house for finished articles and another for parts.

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